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HELD IN

CORNELL COLLEGE, MOUNT VERNON, IOWA

JUNE 20 - 22

1945

H. H. DILL
Publisher
804 Washington
Cedar Falls, Iowa

FORTY CENTS PER COPY

Hawkeye-Record Printing Co.
Mount Vernon, Iowa

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VII. Memoirs

WILBUR FINLEY ALBRIGHT

Wilbur Finley Albright was born in Fayette County, Iowa, Oct. 11, 1859. He was graduated from Upper Iowa University in 1885, he joined the Upper Iowa Conference and was sent to East Dubuque. For a short time he attended Garrett Biblical Institute, then he was sent to supply the church at Floyd. In 1887 he was appointed to Burr Oak Circuit where he was united in marriage with Miss Zephine Foxwell. After two years of service there they were appointed to Monona where after their first year, this promising young couple answered the call of William Taylor to work in a self-supporting mission in Chile.

They landed at Coquimbo, Chile in November 1890 where Brother Albright was director of our Boys' Boarding School and later served as pastor of the English Church. From there he was appointed to the Spanish work at LaSerna where he led in the building of a large church, and with the help of native brethren held four services a week besides Sunday School, Class Meeting, cottage prayer meetings and conducting a school for the children of the members. He also made frequent trips into the country where he preached, sold Bibles and distributed tracts. After seven years he was transferred to Antofogasto, Spanish. Here the church was large and loving and the work inspiring, but exhausting, and he fell sick and was ordered a change of climate.



So they returned to the States and served our churches at Dumont, Rudd and Plainfield. In 1907 Brother Albright took a supernumerary relation went to S. Dakota and took a claim. During the eight years of his residence there he found great joy in going out to preach in a country where preachers were few. He retired in 1912 and moved with his family to Beach, Virginia in 1913, where he made his home until he entered the home above on Monday, April 24, 1944.

Mrs. Albright preceded him in death on March 16, 1936. He is survived by four sons and two daughters: Wm. of Baltimore, Md.; Paul of Waukegan, Ill.; Finley of Beach, Va.; Mrs. Mary Steinspring of Durham, N. C.; Shirley of Beach, Va., and Philip of Tyler, Texas. There are also twelve grandchildren, of whom two of the older ones are in the armed forces. Burial was made at Beach, Virginia.

Rev. Wilbur Finley Albright, A. M.
Mrs. Zephine Foxwell Albright
Missionaries to South America.

Wilbur Finley Albright is on his "native heath" when in Fayette Co., Iowa, where he began his career, October 11, 1859. He began his education in the public schools of Illyria township, and took his collegiate course at Upper Iowa University graduating in 1885. He also studied theology at Garrett Biblical Institute and became a member of Upper Iowa Conference. In 1887 he married Miss Zephine Foxwell, who was a native Racine, Wis. She had taught school in Fayette and Clayton counties for nearly ten years. Rev. Mr. Albright was pastor at Floyd, Burr Oak, and Monana. From the last named place with his devoted wife he entered upon the work in South America, in what was at that period known as "the self supporting work," a plan devised by the late Bishop William Taylor. In 1890 these self-denying toilers began their work at Coquimbo, Chile, by taking charge of a Boarding School, he teaching and directing and later serving as the pastor of the English speaking church, she from the conference having received the appointment of housekeeper, and teacher. Meantime a good degree of proficiency was attained in the Spanish language and he was appointed to the Spanish-speaking church in La Serena, an interior city of considerable importance of which the former named place is the seaport. Here he remained seven years. With the assistance of native christians he held five regular services per week besides class meeting etc., conducting school for children, and going often into the interior, preaching and distributing Christian literature. He purchased real estate, solicited funds and builded a church edifice in La Serena, which Bishop Warren dedicated, returning all the way from Santiago on his Episcopal tour to accomplish it. Mrs. Albright here worked largely among the women and girls, and taught large classes of women in the Spanish Sunday School. He was next sent to Antofagasta, where was a large, interesting and aspiring church. But the labors were exhausting and ultimately impaired his health. Mrs. Albright was here superintendent of the English speaking Sunday School. In all his labors Reverend Mr. Albright was capable, industrious, and conscientious and stood squarely and firmly for the things that make for righteousness whether among the people, or on the conference floor. His noble wife extended ever the hospitalities of the home to the members of the congregation, and their fellow missionaries in their journeys up and down the coast.

The record was a noble one, and while the world little heeds or cares, God has that record treasured on high.

But now after some fourteen years of hardest toil and self-denial, his health impaired, his children needing better school advantage he requested to be returned to the United States. Here he entered upon ministerial work in the conference from which he had entered the mission field. He served in the pastorate of Dumont, Rudd, and Plainfield, and in the autumn of

1907 took a supernumerary relation to his conference. In his pastorate service he and his companion exhibited the same devotion to the salvation of souls, that characterized them in the distant field. At the present time he is "holding down a claim" of government land in South Dakota, hoping in due time to own a spot of earth where he may place his family and call it by this sweetest of names, "home." Meantime among the settlers in a large area of country and arid frontier conditions he counts it all joy to ride the dreary miles to preach the Gospel to his fellow-men.

Rev. and Mrs. W. F. Albright deserve many stars in their crown, and since He that rules over all and does justly, never forgets, they will doubtless receive their reward. The words of the Psalmist are apropos: "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

MISSIONARY SOCIETY

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

150 FIFTH AVENUE

A. D. LEONARD,
A. J. PALMER,
W. T. SMITH,

} Corres. Secs.,

S. L. BALDWIN, Recording Secretary,
HOMER EATON, Treasurer,
E. R. SMITH, Editor "Gospel in All Lands."

NEW YORK, ^{Feb} JUNE 26 1897

DEAR BROTHER:

The Secretaries desire to secure, at the earliest possible date, a complete record of the following items concerning each missionary in the employ of the Missionary Society.

These data will be preserved in such form that they will be of great practical benefit in the future work of Committees and Board.

Will you fill out these blanks for yourself and family and return to this office promptly?

Yours sincerely,

THE MISSIONARY SECRETARIES.

(Please answer these questions AS NEARLY AS POSSIBLE with the data at hand.)

Date of answer February 26, 1897

Full name of missionary and date of birth Wilbur F. Williams -

Age when appointed thirty years

Nationality American from the U.S.A.

Fields of labor and dates (month and year) Commenced some time of
approx. Nov. 2, 1890, until March 1897. Africa
-vice versa, 1897, until the present Feb. 1897.

Bishop appointing Francis Pickens Lee.

Date of departure from home to field October 1890.

Present residence Sierra Leone, S.L.

Employment at the present time Pastor of Christian Church Sierra Leone.

Date of marriage *November 9th, 1887.*

Wife's full name *Jephine Viola Foxwell Albright*

Date of wife's birth *Aug. 31st 1861.*

Children's full names and date of birth respectively *John Thomas, b. May 25, 1891;*
Paul Foxwell, b. Aug. 8th 1893; Fannie Fawcett
b. June 6, 1895.

RETURN HOME.

Names of persons returning, dates, and reasons of return (if more than one return state these particulars in each case)

Walter H. Albright & family above named.
Reason assigned: Time of service expired, home matters
demanding attention, extreme age of living parents.

Dates of leaving to return to the field, and names of persons returning....

Dec. 28th, 1896, all were named above.

Name and address of representative in the United States in family matters

Miss Mary A. Foxwell, Quincy, Iowa.

Code name

FINANCIAL.

Salary, past and present... At first what we could get. First year about \$175 & board. Second year \$300 & board.

Present salary \$864 (estimated) & house.

Received this year for children Have not received anything.

Special aid asked, dates and amounts None have asked for any.

Aid granted, dates and amounts Nothing.

Outgoing expenses each time First about \$425. Second about \$646.16. Cost of it was at least \$646.16.

Home-coming expenses each time. Nothing allowed. cost \$530.

Home salary, for self and family Children asked for nothing.

Name and address of representative in United States in business matters Mrs. Mrs. L. P. ...
L. P. ...

Code name

MISSIONARY SOCIETY
 — OF THE —
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

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S. L. BALDWIN, Recording Secretary.
 HOMER EATON, Treasurer.
 E. R. SMITH, Editor, "Gospel in All Lands."

CABLE ADDRESS: MISSIONS.

150 FIFTH AVENUE,

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 10, 1901.

DEAR BROTHER:

The Secretaries have constant need of the information asked for in this circular. It was sent to all our foreign missionaries in 1896, and the replies are on file. But new missionaries go to the field, and additional information is needed from those who kindly made response five years ago.

Will you fill out the blanks for yourself and family and return to this office promptly?

Yours sincerely,

THE MISSIONARY SECRETARIES.

(Please answer these questions AS NEARLY AS POSSIBLE with the data at hand.)

1. Place and date of answer *Antofagasta de Chile, So. Am. Nov. 14, 1901*
2. Full name of missionary and date of birth *Wilbur Finley Albright*
October 11, 1859
3. Nationality *American*
4. Date of appointment to our work *August, 1890*
5. Bishop ~~appointing~~ *Under the Bishop Taylor Trans. & Bldg. Fund Com., I had obtained consent of my P. E. & supported everything square until after reaching the field, when Bishop Merrill condemned my departure.*
6. Date of departure from home to engage in our work *October 14th 1892*
7. Date of arrival on the mission field *Nov. 14, 1890*
8. Has service under this Society been continuous since your first appointment? If not, when, why, and how long was it interrupted? *It is continuous as this mission has been.*
It is a matter of fact that the Miss. Soc. of the M. E. Church needs the work of the Bishop Taylor Com. & my family will do it.
9. Fields of labor and dates (month and year) *If you mean distinct missions, there is only Chile. If working Chile, Coq. director of school from time of arrival until Dec. 31, 1892. Pastor of English in Coyuncu from Aug. 1891, till March, 1894. Pastor Spanish, Serena, from March, 1894 till Dec. 1900, with two mos. vacation. Antofagasta, since March 1901.*
10. Present residence *Antofagasta, Chile.*

11. Employment at the present time *Pastor of Spanish Church, & preacher for the English.*

12. Date of marriage *Apr. 9, 1887.*

13. Wife's full name. *Jeplaine Viola Foxwell*

14. Date of wife's birth *Aug. 31, 1861.*

15. Children's full names and date of birth respectively (and date of death, if any have died)

Wm. Tho. Albright, b. May 24, 1891.

Paul Foxwell " " Aug. 8, 1893.

Finley Raymond " " June 6, 1895.

Mary " " May 13, 1897.

Shirley Constance " " March 10, 1899.

Philip Kinde " " " 6, 1901.

RETURN HOME.

16. Names of persons returning, dates, and reasons of return (if more than one return state these particulars in each case)

*W. F. Albright, Jeplaine V. Albright, Wm. T. Albright
Paul F. Albright, Finley R. Albright, left Chile, Dec. 26, 1896
for the U.S. A., Returned expiration of term, To see aged parents, To recuperate health.*

17. Dates of leaving to return to the field, and names of persons returning *Dec. 23, 1897, The same return as above named.*

18. Name and address of person who is your representative in the United States in family matters.....

Miss Mary A. Foxwell, P. O. Lydia, Iowa.

19. Code name to indicate said representative in cable messages *None -*

FINANCIAL.

* 20. Salary, past and present. *First year, board only for self & family. As pastor & director of school. 2nd yr. Same \$500 dollars & board. 3rd year, \$500 dollars & board, no board. 4th year, \$600 & \$650 & board. 5th year, \$840 & house; 6th yr, \$400 absent on vacation without salary 10 mos.; 7th " \$840 & " 8th yr, \$800 & house; 9th, \$800 & house; 10th, \$800 & house; 11th (present year) \$810, with house & \$150 for extra expense of living in the desert.*

21. Received this year for children *Nothing has ever been paid in this field for children of Missionaries*

22. Special aid asked, dates and amounts *Never. None.*

23. Aid granted, dates and amounts *None.*

24. Outgoing expenses each time *1st Under the "Taylor" Com. I never knew. 2nd, Under the Missionary Soc. in 1896-7, arriving on the field in Jan. 25, 1897. Six hundred forty six $\frac{16}{100}$ (\$646 $\frac{16}{100}$) dollars.*

25. Home-coming expenses each time *He paid out own way home.*

26. Home salary, for self and family

Missionaries from this field, so far as I know never receive any salary or other help, except they may work for it in the U.S.A.

27. Name and address of person who is your representative in the United States in business matters

Miss Miss Mary Farnwell Alger, Ar.

28. Code name to indicate said representative in cable messages

* There may be variations in this item from the west. Chile, as exchange is exceedingly variable & prices continually fluctuating accordingly. For example this year the nominal salary is \$907.20 & \$16.20 with house for the desert. The value in U.S. money is as above, more than \$1000 less.

Photographs from this
file have not been
included but are
available upon request.
For more information
please contact
research@gcah.org